

REMARKS

The claims are claims 13, 14, 25, 26 and 35 to 44.

The application has been amended at page 9 to provide reference to elements 204 and 206 illustrated in Figure 2.

Claims 1 to 12, 15 to 24, 27 and 29 are newly canceled.

The FINAL REJECTION objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) as including reference character 204 not mentioned in the description.

The application amendment at page 9 provides reference to elements 204 and 206 in Figure 2. By this amendment the drawings no longer include reference characters not mentioned in the description. Thus no replacement drawing sheets are required.

Claims 13, 14, 30, 31, 36, 37 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Min-Jae U.S. Patent No. 6,222,807.

Claims 13 and 25 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claim 13 recites "an analog input connection connected to said audio coder-decoder for receiving an analog input" and "a base unit analog output connection for connection to said analog input connection of said first base connector." Claim 25 recites "a base unit analog output connection connected to said tuner to output demodulated analog audio signals." These limitations require an analog signal output from the base unit (as recited in claims 13 and 25) and an analog input to the portable music player (as recited in claim 13). The FINAL REJECTION incorporates the reasoning of the OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005. The OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 states at page 5, lines 1 to 5 that Min-Jae discloses:

"An analog output connection connected to said audio coder-decoder for supplying analog music to an external base

unit for amplification and reproduction via speakers (Fig. 3, D/A converter 33, amplifier 34 and Speaker 35)"

This statement is incorrect. The D/A converter 33, amplifier 34 and speaker 35 illustrated in Figure 3 of Min-Jae are part of recording/playback apparatus 10 and not part of portable apparatus 50. The portions of Min-Jae cited in the OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 regarding other elements of the portable music player of claim 13 (rechargeable battery pack; input/output device; memory; data processor; audio coder-decoder; headset connector; base connector including a power connection) all refer to portable apparatus 50 illustrated in Figure 4. The analog output of recording/playback apparatus 10 via digital to analog converter 33, amplifier 34 and speaker 35 does not anticipate the base unit analog output connection recited in claims 13 and 25. Note particularly that claims 13 and 25 each include recitation of a pre-amplifier, an amplifier and a speaker system which correspond to digital to analog converter 33, amplifier 34 and speaker 35 of recording/playback apparatus 10 of Min-Jae. Thus the recited base unit analog output connection must be a different structure.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the only connection between recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50 of Min-Jae is a digital connection and not the analog connection recited in claims 13 and 25. Figure 3 of Min-Jae illustrates base unit 10 including connector 27 and interface driver 26. Figure 4 of Min-Jae illustrates portable apparatus 50 including connector 60 selectively connectable to connector 27 and interface driver 59. Min-Jae states at column 14, lines 5 to 12:

"As shown in FIG. 2, the recording/playback apparatus 10 also has a connector 27 for connecting the portable apparatus 50 thereto. With the connector 27 put in a state of being engaged with a connector 60 of the portable apparatus 50, the CPU 11 is capable of communicating various kinds of data with the

portable apparatus 50 by way of an interface driver 26. For example, an audio file stored in the HDD 15 can be transferred to the portable apparatus 50."

This clearly states that data from HDD 15 can be transmitted from base unit 10 to portable apparatus 50 via connector 27 and connector 27. This data path presumably also includes connector 60 and interface driver 59. Min-Jae states at column 11, lines 50 and 51 that "HDD" means "hard disk drive." Such a hard disk drive is known to store digital data and not analog data. Min-Jae states at column 18, lines 45 to 48:

"To put it in detail, the audio file is transferred from the HDD 15 to the HDD 54 by way of the interface drivers 26 and 59 to be recorded into the HDD 54."

Since both HDD 15 and HDD 54 are disclosed as a type of apparatus that stores digital data, the interface drivers 26 and 59 handle digital data and thus interface driver 26 and interface driver 60 also handle digital data. One skilled in the art would understand this connection between connectors 27 and 60 is digital data and not the analog data claimed. The OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 does not point out any portion of Min-Jae disclosing an analog connection as recited in claims 13 and 25. The Applicant submits that Min-Jae teaches no such analog connection. The FINAL REJECTION states at page 5, lines 1 to 12:

"The information data (music) of this instant application are stored on disc drive 111 (CD player, figure 1) or flash memory 104, these medium are typical of digital information data storage medium (the music are stored inform of tracks on CD or files on flash memory), which is the same form of information data on MIN-JAE's music player. This is clearly indicated that the information data exchanges between two or more digital storage devices do not necessary having a digital connector. Further, in column 14, lines 40-46 MIN-JAE teaches that 'By putting the connectors 27 and 60 in an engaged state, the

recording/playback apparatus 10 is electrically connected to the portable apparatus 50'."

The Applicants respectfully submit this connecting of connectors 27 and 60 in Min-Jae is limited to digital signals. Min-Jae includes general descriptions of connectors 27 and 60 at column 10, lines 18 to 27 and column 14, lines 40 to 46. These general descriptions fail to specify whether connectors 27 and 60 communicate digital signals or analog signals. As shown above, all the detailed descriptions of the signals these connectors 27 and 60 communicate are limited to digital signals. One skilled in the art reading this description as a whole would believe that the teachings of Min-Jae are limited to the detailed digital signals and not the claimed analog signals. Min-Jae discloses the connection operates with devices known to handle digital data and does not explicitly disclose the recited analog connection. Accordingly, Min-Jae fails to anticipate the analog connection recited in claims 13 and 25. The above quoted portion of the FINAL REJECTION appears to argue that this application teaches digital data sources in the portable music system and the base unit and analog connection, thus the Min-Jae teaching of digital data sources does not preclude the recited analog connection. However, this application specifically teaches the claimed analog connections while Min-Jae does not. Thus claims 1, 13 and 25 are allowable over Min-Jae.

Claims 13 and 25 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 13 and 25 recite "a tuner for receiving and demodulating analog audio signals." Claim 13 further recites "said tuner supplying said analog audio signals to said base unit analog output connection" and claim 25 further recites "a base unit analog output connection connected to said tuner to output demodulated analog audio signals." The OFFICE ACTION of November 11, 2005 incorporates the reasoning of the FINAL REJECTION of August 12, 2005 which at page 6, lines 13 to 16 cites Min-Jae at column 8,

lines 58 to 63 as anticipating this subject matter. Min-Jae states at column 8, lines 58 to 63:

"As shown in FIG. 2, the recording/playback apparatus 10 is designed as equipment having a type of the so-called cassette tape recorder/player having a radio so that it is suitable for use by the user typically at home. It is needless to say that the recording/playback apparatus 10 can also be designed as component-type equipment."

This portion of Min-Jae teaches a radio as part of the recording/playback apparatus 10. However, Min-Jae includes no teaching that recording/playback apparatus 10 transmits an analog signal to portable apparatus 50 as required by the above quoted portions of claims 13 and 25. Accordingly, claims 13 and 25 are allowable over Min-Jae.

Claims 14, 36, 38 and 40 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 14 and 38 recite "said data processor is further programmed in cooperation with input device enabling a user to enter volume control data via said keypad," the first base connector includes "a volume data output connection for transmission of volume control data from the self-contained, portable music player," the second base connector includes "a volume data input connection for connection to said volume data output connection" and the pre-amplifier is "further connected to said volume data input connection and producing an amount of amplification corresponding to the volume control data." Claim 36 recites "said data processor is further programmed in cooperation with input device enabling a user to enter volume control data via said keypad" and "a volume data connection for transmission of volume control data from the self-contained, portable music player." Claim 40 recites the base connector includes a "volume data input connection for receiving of volume control data" and the pre-amplifier is connected to "said volume data input connection

and producing an amount of amplification corresponding to the volume control data." These claim cover various aspects of a technique where a volume control input made at the self-contained, portable music player be converted to volume control data, that volume control data be transmitted to the base unit which controls the "amount of amplification" at the base unit. Claim 36 recites only the portable music player, claim 40 recites only the base unit and claim 14 recites both the portable music player and the base unit. The OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 incorporates the reasoning of the FINAL REJECTION of August 12, 2005 which states at page 5, lines 4 to 7:

"As to claims 2, 14 and 26, MIN-JAE shows the volume can be control from portable player or base unit (Fig. 2, volume control on panel operation unit 20 and in portable player 50, figure 4, via connector 27 and USB bus B1, B2)."

The Applicants submit that this is incorrect. Min-Jae fails to teach that any input operation made at portable apparatus 50 controls operation at base recording/playback apparatus 10. Min-Jae states at column 14, lines 50 to 56:

"When any of the operators Kb which serve as the panel operation unit 56 is operated, an operation signal requesting an operation to be carried out by the portable apparatus 50 is output by the panel operation unit 56 to a control bus B2. The portable apparatus 50 then carries out the operation requested by the operation signal."

This states that inputs at panel operation unit 56 controls operation at the portable apparatus 50. This does not anticipate that input at panel operation unit 56 enables generation of volume control data as recited in claims 14 and 29 nor that the base unit receives volume control data and produces an amount of amplification corresponding to this volume control data as recited

in claims 14 and 40. The above quoted paragraph of the FINAL REJECTION denotes a pathway disclosed in Min-Jae where it is feasible to transmit the recited volume control data. However, Min-Jae fails to provide any indication that this path is used in this way. The Applicant submits that one skilled in the art would believe that panel operation unit 20 is used to control recording/playback unit 10 and panel operation unit 56 is used to control portable apparatus 50. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of volume control data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails to anticipate this recited subject matter. The FINAL REJECTION states at page 5, line 14 to page 6, line 2:

"Third, applicant states that claims 2,14,36,38 and 40 require that a volume control input made at the self-contained, portable music player be converted to volume control data, that volume control data be transmitted to the base unit which controls the amount of amplification at the base unit. However, these features are not exist in claims 2,14,36,38 and 40. As far as interpreted by the Examiner, the languages in these claims means that, in base mode the audio from memory can be reproduced on speakers of base unit. This feature is shown in MIN-JAE's portable audio player since the audio data from both portable player 50 and base unit 10 can be exchangeable and played back at speaker 35 of base unit 10."

As stated above, these claim cover various aspects of the technique with claim 36 reciting only the portable music player, claim 40 reciting only the base unit and claim 14 reciting both the portable music player and the base unit. However, each of these claims recites volume control data and supplying volume control data to a connector, receiving volume control data from a connector or both. The Examiner has cited no portion of Min-Jae as allegedly anticipating the volume control data recited in claims 14, 36, 38 and 40. Accordingly, claims 14, 36, 38 and 40 are allowable over Min-Jae et al.

Claims 30 and 31 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claim 30 recites the base connector of the player includes "a digital data bus connection for bidirectional data exchange" and that the data processor of the player is further connected to the digital data bus connection "for communicating station selection data corresponding to inputs received from said input/output device" via the digital data bus connection to the base unit. Claims 30 and 31 recite a base connector including a "digital data bus connection." Claim 30 recites this digital data bus connection is "for connection to said first digital data bus connection." Claim 31 recites this digital data bus connection is "for receiving digital data including station selection data." Lastly, claims 30 and 31 recites that the tuner is connected to this digital data bus connection and selects "a station corresponding to said station selection data." These recitations provide the tuner in the base unit with station selection made by the input/output device of the portable unit with station selection data transferred by a digital data bus. This subject matter is not anticipated by Min-Jae. Min-Jae teaches that recording/playback unit 10 includes a radio but fails to teach the transmission of station selection data via a digital data bus. The OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 incorporates the previous rejections of the FINAL REJECTION of August 12, 2005 which denotes a pathway disclosed in Min-Jae where it is feasible to transmit the recited station selection data. However, Min-Jae fails to provide any indication that this path is used in this way. The Applicant submits that one skilled in the art would believe that panel operation unit 20 is used to control recording/playback unit 10 to make any station selection. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of station selection data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails

to anticipate this recited subject matter. Accordingly, claims 30 and 31 are not anticipated by Min-Jae.

Claims 37, 41, 42 and 44 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 37 and 42 recite the said data processor being "programmed in cooperation with said input device enabling a user to enter station selection data via said keypad." Claims 37 and 42 further recite "communicating station selection data corresponding to inputs received from said input device via said station selection output connection." Claims 41 and 44 recite "selecting a station corresponding to said station selection data." Regarding claims 37, 42 and 43, the FINAL REJECTION states at page 6, line 19 to page 7, line 3:

"Fifth, the bidirectional data bus of claims 29-31 is shown in Min-Jae's figures 3 and 4, the data bus for connecting between portable player 50 and base unit 10. It is noted that the data between portable player 50 and base unit 10 are exchangeable which means that the panel operation unit 56 in portable player 50 could be used to control the operation of the base unit 10. This reason is also applied to claims 37, 39, 42 and 43."

This provides an argument that the station select data is anticipated by Min-Jae but includes no indication where Min-Jae anticipates this subject matter. Min-Jae fails to teach the provision of receipt of station selection data at the portable music player that is implemented on a tuner in the base unit. Accordingly, claims 37, 41, 42 and 44 are allowable over Min-Jae.

Claims 26, 32 to 35 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as made obvious by Min-Jae U.S. Patent No. 6,222,807.

Claim 26 recites subject matter not made obvious by Min-Jae. Claim 26 recites the base connector includes a "volume data input connection for receiving of volume control data" and the pre-amplifier is connected to "said volume data input connection and

producing an amount of amplification corresponding to the volume control data." This claim requires that volume control data received at an input control the "amount of amplification" at the base unit. The OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 states at page 7, lines 1 to 15:

"MIN-JAE discloses all the subject matter as claimed in claims 26, 40 and 41, except to specifically shows that the base unit receives the volume control from the portable player. It would have been obvious to someone within the level of skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the audio player system of MIN-JAE by locating a volume control in portable player. The rationale is as follows: The volume controller is old and widely used in the recording art for controlling the volume of the audio signal (See MIN-JAE's figure 2, control button Ka, portable player 50 with various control buttons), the volume controller can be placed at any suitable locations on any audio players. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to arrange a volume control on portable player 50 of MIN-JAE's audio player system for controlling the volume of the base unit 10 as claimed."

This is an argument why Min-Jae makes obvious the recitation of the portable unit supplying volume control data to the base unit. However, this points out no evidence that one skilled in the art would modify Min-Jae as suggested. Firstly, Min-Jae discloses separate user controls for recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50. Min-Jae states at column 10, lines 49 to 53:

"When the panel operation unit 20 is operated, one of a plurality of operation signals for carrying out a variety of operations of the recording/playback apparatus 10 is generated. The recording/playback apparatus 10 then operates in accordance with the generated operation signal."

Min-Jae also states at column 15, lines 47 to 56:

"The portable apparatus 50 has operators such as push-type and rotary-type keys serving as a panel operation unit 56. That is to say, a variety of operators Kb shown in FIG. 2 correspond to the panel operation unit 56. When any of the operators Kb which serve as the panel operation unit 56 is operated, an operation signal requesting an operation to be carried out by the portable apparatus 50 is output by the panel operation unit 56 to a control bus B2. The portable apparatus 50 then carries out the operation requested by the operation signal."

The Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art viewing these disclosures would understand that operation of recording/playback apparatus 10 is controlled by panel operation unit 20 and operation of portable apparatus 50 is controlled by panel operation unit 56. Secondly, the OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 fails to point out any disclosure of Min-Jae of one apparatus 10 or 50 sending control signals to control operations at the other apparatus. The Applicants believe there is no such disclosure. Thus Min-Jae provides no evidence to support the Examiner's argument that the particular combination of claim 26 is obvious. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of volume control data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails to make obvious this recited subject matter. Accordingly, claim 26 is allowable over Min-Jae et al.

Claims 32 and 33 recite subject matter not made obvious by Min-Jae. Claims 32 and 33 recite the base unit "includes no volume control input." This limitation is in accordance with the system illustrated in Figure 1 where there is no illustration of a volume control in the base unit. Figure 2 of Min-Jae clearly illustrates controls on both recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50. The OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 states at page 7, lines 16 to 18:

"As to claims 32-35 and 44, to locate the volume control and selection input in any suitable locations of the audio player system is found to be within the level of skill in the art."

While this is an argument that this subject matter is obvious, this is not evidence of obviousness. Min-Jae discloses separate user controls for recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50 at column 10, lines 49 to 53 and at column 15, lines 47 to 56. The Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art viewing these disclosures would understand that operation of recording/playback apparatus 10 is controlled by panel operation unit 20 and operation of portable apparatus 50 is controlled by panel operation unit 56. The OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 fails to point out any disclosure of Min-Jae of omission of a volume control at recording/playback apparatus 10. The Applicants believe there is no such disclosure. Thus Min-Jae provides no evidence to support the Examiner's argument that the particular combination of claims 32 and 33 is obvious. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of volume control data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails to make obvious this recited subject matter. Accordingly, claims 32 and 33 are allowable over Min-Jae et al.

Claims 34, 35 and 44 recite subject matter not anticipated by Min-Jae. Claims 34 and 35 recite "said base unit includes no station selection input." Claim 44 similarly recites "said base unit having no input for station selection." This limitation is in accordance with the system illustrated in Figure 1 where there is no illustration of a station selection in the base unit. Figure 2 of Min-Jae clearly illustrates controls on both recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50. The OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 states at page 7, lines 16 to 18:

"As to claims 32-35 and 44, to locate the volume control and selection input in any suitable locations of the audio player system is found to be within the level of skill in the art."

While this is an argument that this subject matter is obvious, this is not evidence of obviousness. Min-Jae discloses separate user controls for recording/playback apparatus 10 and portable apparatus 50 at column 10, lines 49 to 53 and at column 15, lines 47 to 56. The Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art viewing these disclosures would understand that operation of recording/playback apparatus 10 is controlled by panel operation unit 20 and operation of portable apparatus 50 is controlled by panel operation unit 56. The OFFICE ACTION of November 15, 2005 fails to point out any disclosure of Min-Jae of omission of a station selection input at recording/playback apparatus 10. The Applicants believe there is no such disclosure. Thus Min-Jae provides no evidence to support the Examiner's argument that the particular combination of claims 34, 35 and 44 is obvious. In the absence of any indication within Min-Jae that transmission of volume control data between portable apparatus 50 and recording/playback unit 10 is feasible or desirable, Min-Jae fails to make obvious this recited subject matter. Thus claims 34, 35 and 44 are allowable over Min-Jae.

The Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of this amendment. Entry of this amendment is proper at this time because the amendment serves only to cancel rejected claims. Thus no new search or reconsideration is required.

The Applicants respectfully submit that all the present claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore early entry of this amendment, reconsideration and advance to issue are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the below listed telephone number and address to facilitate prosecution.

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